



TO: The Honorable Members of the Board of Regents

FROM: Betty A. Rosa

SUBJECT: Appointment of Alexander Trikalinos to Assistant Commissioner for the Office of Teacher and Leader Development

DATE: September 13, 2022

AUTHORIZATIONS:

Issue for Decision

Will the Board of Regents approve my appointment of Alexander Trikalinos as Assistant Commissioner for the newly created Office of Teacher and Leader Development?

Reason(s) for Consideration

Alexander Trikalinos will bring to the Assistant Commissioner position for the newly created Office of Teacher and Leader Development extensive knowledge and experience in teacher and school leader development and professional learning. With over a decade of experience in the field of education, Mr. Trikalinos holds a Juris Doctor from Albany Law School and started his career as a classroom instructor and master tutor. He started with the Department in 2013 as an Education Specialist in the Office of Teacher and Leader Effectiveness where he provided support and technical assistance to stakeholders regarding statutory and regulatory requirements for developing and implementing teacher and principal evaluation systems. He then held the position of Interim Director of that office and was subsequently promoted to serve as the Executive Director, a position which he has held since 2016. Mr. Trikalinos' extensive experience and vast knowledge related to teacher and leader development, effective practices for educator preparation programs, recruiting promising and diverse candidates into educator preparation programs, facilitation of professional learning opportunities, and strong management skills will make him an asset as he serves in this role.

In line with the Department's guiding principle of a service-oriented approach through technical assistance, and under the direction of the Senior Deputy Commissioner, Office of Education Policy, and the Deputy Commissioner for the Office of Higher Education, the Department has created an Office of Teacher and Leader Development. With a foundation of diversity, equity, and inclusion, this office will bring together the various units within the Department charged with teacher and leader development under one umbrella. This will enable the Department to more deeply consider policies and supports for developing stronger and more diverse teacher and leader recruitment and retention opportunities; pre and in-service professional learning opportunities; and better inform educator certification through a strong connection to the field, research organizations, and a deep understanding of the law and regulations. Under the leadership of the Assistant Commissioner of Teacher and Leader Development, this office will also help direct and strategize how to leverage federal funding streams, such as Title II-A, to drive this work with an aim toward improving and better supporting teaching and learning across New York State for all students and to drive overall system improvement.

The Office of Teacher and Leader Development will coordinate efforts across the continuum of P-20 offices, will serve as content experts and a resource on school leadership, and will ensure that the needs and concerns of teachers and school leaders have an active voice in our shared work.

Proposed Handling

This appointment will come before the Full Board of Regents for final action at its September 2022 meeting.

Procedural History

Not applicable.

Background Information

Not applicable.

Related Regents Items

Not applicable.

Recommendation

It is recommended that the Board of Regents approve the appointment of Alexander Trikalinos to the position of Assistant Commissioner for the Office of Teacher and Leader Development.

VOTED, that the Board of Regents approve the appointment of Alexander Trikalinos to the position of Assistant Commissioner for the Office of Teacher and Leader Development.

Timetable for Implementation

If the Board of Regents approves the recommendation, the appointment will be effective September 15, 2022.